

Low Maintenance Grasses for Ground Cover and Lawns

Seeding Rates for Pure Stands

Species	Cultivars	Life Form	Soil Preference Sandy Loamy Clayey			Lawns ¹ Lbs.PLS Per 1000 sq ft	Drought ² Tolerance	Trampling ² Resistance	Mowing ² Tolerance	Remarks
COOL-SEASON										
Native										
Western wheatgrass (Pascopyrum smithii)	Rosana Rodan	Rhizomatous		X	X	4	Moderate	Good	Good	Forms open sod, bluish in color
Thickspike wheatgrass (Elymus lanceolatus)	Critana Bannock Schwendimar	Rhizomatous	X	X	X	3.5	Good	Fair	Fair	Finer leaved than western wheatgrass, good seedling vigor
Streambank wheatgrass (Elymus lanceolatus)	Sodar	Rhizomatous	X	X	X	3.5	Good	Fair	Fair	Similar to thickspike, Good seedling vigor
Green needlegrass (Nassella viridula)	Lodorm	Bunchgrass		X	X	3	Moderate	Fair	Fair	Best in a mix with other cool-season grasses
Introduced										
Crested wheatgrass (Agropyron cristatum)	Ephraim Roadcrest	Rhizomatous	X	X	X	3	Excellent	Good	Good	Good drought resistance
Sheep fescue (Festuca ovina)	Covar Bighorn	Bunchgrass	X	X		1	Good	Fair	Good	Fine-leaved, competitive with other plants & weeds
Hard fescue (Festuca trachyphylla)	Durar	Bunchgrass	X	X		1	Good	Fair	Good	Fine-leaved, short stature
Tall fescue (Festuca Trachyphylla)	Alta Fawn	Bunchgrass		X	X	2.5	Moderate	Good	Good	Coarse leaves, high tolerance of trampling
Canada bluegrass (Poa compressa)	Reubens Talon Foothills	Rhizomatous	X	X	X	1	Moderate	Good	Good	Will form sod, but not as tight as Kentucky bluegrass
Russian wildrye (Psathyrostachys juncea)	Bozoisky- Select Mankota	Bunchgrass	X	X	X	3	Excellent	Good	Fair	Excellent drought resistance
WARM-SEASON (Native)										
Blue grama (Bouteloua gracilis)	Bad River Willis Alma	Bunchgrass	X	X	X	1	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Short stature, infrequent mowing, late green-up
Buffalograss (Buchloe dactyloides)	Bismarck Topgun Plains	Stoloniferous		X	X	9	Good	Excellent	Good	Short stature, infrequent mowing, late green-up
Sideoats grama (Bouteloua curtipendula)	Killdeer Pierre	Bunchgrass	X	X	X	3	Moderate	Fair	Poor	Tallest of grama grasses

¹ Seeding rates for sod are figured at approximately 500 PLS seeds per square foot; ²Rating scale: Excellent – Good – Fair – Poor

Compiled from: Creating Native Landscapes in the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bridger Plant Materials Center